



State Senator Ron Jelinek
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STATE SENATOR

Ron Jelinek

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Senator Jelinek Supports Living Healthy Bills

Legislation recently passed by the Senate would give people in Michigan another reason to take better care of themselves. Under Senate Bills 848 and 849, people who live healthier would have the opportunity to pay less for health insurance. The bills would allow insurance companies to create health incentive programs which reward healthy behavior with lower insurance rates.

The added motivation would be helpful as Michigan ranks near the bottom when it comes to living healthy. It seems our residents smoke more and are less active than people in most other states. And Michigan leads the country in heart disease and is second highest in diabetes. That is why we have higher medical bills and insurance costs than many other states. I supported these bills, along with another bill (SB 985) to create a health incentive program for Medicaid recipients, to help people live healthier and control health care costs. Senate Bills 848 and 849 have been sent to the House for consideration.



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Dear Friends:

Michigan needs jobs. Many of our families and communities are hurting. As your voice in Lansing, my foremost priorities have been fighting to keep the jobs we have and working to attract new jobs to our great state. While there are no quick or easy answers, my Senate colleagues and I have been working tirelessly to create a competitive business climate that encourages job growth and diversifies our economy. We have also taken steps to make sure our young people leave school poised to compete in the changing 21st Century economy. I hope you'll take a moment to read about our continuing work to boost Michigan's economic competitiveness.

Along with our focus on jobs, I would also like to share some of our work to protect the quality of life that makes Michigan such a great place to live and raise a family. Please do not hesitate to contact me toll-free at (866) 305-2121 or by e-mail at senrjelinek@senate.michigan.gov if you would like further information on any of these topics.

It is my honor to serve the families of the 21st District and I will continue to work in the best interest of our families and communities. I hope you will call on me if you have any questions or concerns or need assistance with any state matter.

Sincerely,

Ron Jelinek
State Senator
21st District

*"My foremost
priorities have been
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*Senator
Ron Jelinek*

Senator Jelinek Supports Economic Diversification

As many auto manufacturing jobs have disappeared, it is clear Michigan's future rests on diversifying our economy. We have worked hard in the Senate to broaden our economic base and I would like to share some new developments with you.

I supported a new law to use long-term investments to encourage high-tech, high-growth job opportunities. The plan allows the state to take some of Michigan's annual tobacco settlement money to purchase bonds. Known as securitization, it provides an upfront, lump sum of money to make loans and grants available to companies involved in cutting-edge technologies. The 21st Century Jobs Fund, as the plan is called, focuses on these high-growth areas: life sciences, alternative energy, advanced manufacturing and homeland security. The first round of grants and loans is expected in September.

"I believe there's no better state than Michigan to take the lead and capitalize on renewable energy. Michigan remains the center of automotive technology and is a leader in new agriculture technologies."

Senator Ron Jelinek

A Senate bill enacted into law this summer uses money from the 21st Century Jobs Fund to set up the Defense Contract Coordination Center. This new office will help bring defense and homeland security jobs to Michigan by helping businesses secure Department of Defense contracts. Michigan was known as the Arsenal of Democracy during World War II and we are well positioned to assume a vital role once again.

We also took action in the Senate to support the development and use of renewable fuels in Michigan like ethanol and biodiesel. Ethanol is a clean-burning, high-octane fuel primarily produced from corn. Biodiesel is a cleaner-burning diesel fuel made from natural renewable sources such as soybean oil. The new laws provide tax breaks to renewable energy facilities, incentives to station owners to make renewable fuel more widely available and fuel tax cuts to motorists to buy the ethanol- and biodiesel-blended fuels.

Jelinek: Michigan Means Business!

Getting all of Michigan working is priority one. I have worked closely with my Senate colleagues to lay the groundwork for a more competitive business climate. We know our workers and job providers can compete with the best the world over if given a level playing field. In the past several months, we have taken action to:

- Eliminate the job-killing Single Business Tax and replace it with a fair business tax. Michigan is the only state with this kind of tax and it puts us at a big disadvantage. Although an earlier bill was vetoed, the Legislature recently passed into law the Citizens' Initiative Petition to repeal the tax. We are examining ways to restructure the business tax so our job providers are more competitive and our state is more attractive to new and expanding businesses.
- Cut red tape and unnecessary regulations for job providers. Cutting the cost of doing business allows job providers to invest more resources in their companies and workers.
- Provide tax relief for Michigan's major manufacturers. It is vital to keep manufacturing jobs in Michigan even as we look to diversify our economy.
- Hold the line on government spending. Our state government must live within its means, just like Michigan families do.
- Provide tax incentives to help businesses create jobs in industries as diverse as tool and die, forest management and high-technology.

I am committed to helping make Michigan the location of choice for job providers. Whether people want to open a business and create jobs, or expand their business, I believe our continuing economic reforms will convince them the best place to do so is right here!

Michigan Workers *Get a Raise!*

The Michigan Senate recently took the lead to help low-wage earners with a plan to increase the state minimum wage. The new law is Michigan's first increase in the minimum wage rate in nearly a decade. The new rate of \$6.95 will go into effect on October 1, 2006, then be raised to \$7.15 on July 1, 2007, and \$7.40 on July 1, 2008.

The plan, which benefits both workers and businesses, is a sensible alternative to a proposed ballot initiative. Under the new law, there is no mandatory, annual inflationary increase which drives up costs even during times when the economy is suffering. Workers will receive a fair wage hike, while Michigan job providers will not be hurt with a provision that could stifle their ability to compete and further threaten our state's economic recovery.



Senator Jelinek: We Must Prepare Students for the Future

Starting in 2007, incoming high school freshmen will see more rigorous graduation requirements in order to leave school better prepared for work in the 21st Century and better prepared for college as well. Under a legislative plan signed into law, graduation standards will be stepped up far beyond the previous state requirement — a half-year civics class.

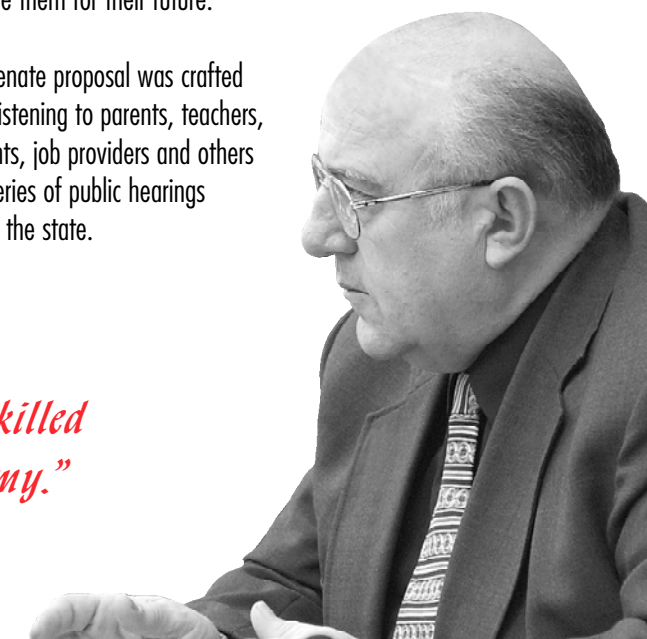
New requirements affecting the graduating class of 2011 include four credits each of English and math as well as three credits each of science and social science. One credit of physical education and health, and one credit of visual or applied arts will also be required along with an online course or learning experience. In addition, beginning with the class of 2016, students will be required to have two credits of a foreign language, fulfilled any time between kindergarten and graduation.

"Our students must be well educated and highly skilled to successfully compete for jobs in the new economy."

Senator Ron Jelinek

We often tell our kids that education is the key to success. In today's fast-changing global economy, education is more important than ever before. These new requirements are among the best in the nation. I supported this plan and firmly believe our students deserve everything we can do to fully prepare them for their future.

The Senate proposal was crafted after listening to parents, teachers, students, job providers and others in a series of public hearings across the state.



Protecting Families & Communities

Our families and neighborhoods are the bedrock of our communities. There is nothing more important than the safety and security of our loved ones. We must do everything we can to keep dangerous criminals locked up and off the streets. I fully supported tough legislation signed into law to protect our families, including:

- Making parole rules more clear so that offenders accused of parole violations are not mistakenly paroled again. Public Act 315 of 2006 is in response to the heinous murders of three Michigan residents committed by a man who should have had his parole revoked.
- Requiring repeat offenders convicted of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree to serve a life sentence without a chance of parole if their victims are under age 13. Another new law creates Michigan's version of "Jessica's Law," which requires at least 25 years in prison with lifetime parole for someone convicted of sexually assaulting a child younger than 13. Michigan now has some of the toughest laws in the nation against sexual predators.
- Protecting children from exposure to methamphetamine use and production and creating a greater awareness of the dangerous situations that can occur when children are exposed to meth production. Meth is fast becoming the number one drug problem.

- Protecting senior citizens and others living in residential care facilities by requiring criminal background checks on all new employees and fingerprints on all current employees. Nearly 100,000 Michigan residents receive care in one of 5,000 residential care facilities across the state. Our most vulnerable adults should feel safe in the place they call home.

In addition, I strongly supported legislation to protect families mourning the loss of their fallen soldiers from harassment. You may have read about the disrespectful and disruptive action of a group that shouts insults and makes inflammatory remarks at the funerals of soldiers killed in Iraq. The new laws make it a felony to demonstrate within 500 feet of a funeral. The families of our servicemen and women who have died in combat have the right to grieve the loss of their loved one in peace.

"Our fallen heroes have the right to be honored in solemnity and dignity."

Senator Ron Jelinek